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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 002428

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/PPD:DMACINNES, JKINCANNON, JDAVIES,  
NEA/RA:BKEARY, NEA/ARP: MMILLER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KDEM](#) [KPAO](#) [AFIN](#) [KWMN](#) [PHUM](#) [YM](#) [HUMAN RIGHTS](#)

SUBJECT: DEMOCRACY SMALL GRANT FOR THE NATIONAL WOMEN  
COMMITTEE/ ADEN

REF: A) STATE 187026 B) SANAA 5295

1. Embassy Sanaa requests funding for a grant from the NEA Democracy Small Grants Program to the "National Women Committee/ Aden" to conduct the "Early Marriage Phenomenon Study and Awareness Workshop."

2. The National Women Committee is quasi-governmental and receives much of its funding from the ROYG, and its head in Sanaa is government-appointed. In most other respects, it functions as an NGO and works closely with women's NGOs throughout Yemen. The fact that it is well organized and properly staffed gives us confidence that the Aden branch will be able to implement this project.

3. Project description: The project titled "Early Marriage Phenomenon Study and Awareness Workshop" will address the early marriage phenomenon and risks and effects, among young girls in the rural areas of 6 southern governorates: Lahj, Abyan, Adhalie, Hadramout, Shabwa and Almahra. The study will focus on how early marriage is denying the rights of young girls and preventing them from enjoying the life of childhood, education, freedom to choose their partners, and the right to build their personalities. The study will search this phenomenon and call for identifying such problem, its causes, and impacts on family conditions. A discussion group will be formed to discuss the study results and work on the formulation of adequate solutions that eradicate this phenomenon, with the cooperation of all concerned, the government, civil society, individuals, NGO's and International donors. The purpose of such cooperation is to ensure that women in general and young girls in particular are enjoying their rights and promote the exercise of these rights without violence. Discussion groups will include judges, lawyers, religious men, doctors and specialist groups such as social experts, psychologists and social leaders. Following the research and study team, public awareness mobile workshops will be organized by the specialist team, visiting the families in the study areas, girls schools and women centers. The purpose of this method is to educate and make the public aware about the risks and impact of this phenomenon on both sexes, and to get their comments and opinions. This method is considered to be participatory. Workshop will use posters and signs to get the message across and reach people.

4. Project objectives:  
-To raise awareness about early marriage risks.  
-To assert girls right to education

5. Project justification: Yemen has one of the highest rates of early girl marriages in the region due to strict traditions that make parents the ultimate decision makers. According to traditions, parents in most Yemeni provinces especially in poor and tribal remote areas, take their daughters out of school and force them into marriage either to follow family tradition, or to get the marriage dowry which will help the family economically. The continuation of this tradition has caused many risks to young girls whose rights to education, freedom of expression and choice have been violated. It also has affected their physical well being since they bear children at a young age and are unable to cope with marriage responsibility, therefore get divorced and bear the social and economical responsibilities of their circumstances.

Project supports mission key MPP goal of promoting girls rights to education, freedom of choice and intellectual and physical development.

6. The total amount requested for this project is US DOLS 9247

7. Project dates: March-December 03

8. Budget details:

6 Governorates study research needs:	
Questionnaires for six selected areas (200 x 6)	
1200	
Transportation for questionnaire distribution	
600	
Researchers fees (100 x 12 two for each governorate)	
1200	
Discussion group meeting needs:	
Discussion team fees (10 experts x 60)	600
Workshop needs in six governorates:	
3 lecturers in each governorate (3 x 70 x 3 days x 6 governorates)	3780
Awareness messages posters (100 x 6 governorates)	
600	
Coordinator fees for the project	500
Administrative Fees	767
Total	9247
HULL	